

the Wish Wire

September 2011

MAKE-A-WISH
MAINE CHAPTER

OUR MISSION: GRANT THE WISHES OF MAINE CHILDREN WITH LIFE-THREATENING MEDICAL CONDITIONS TO ENRICH THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE WITH HOPE, STRENGTH AND JOY. MISSION ACHIEVED EVERY 5 DAYS ON AVERAGE.

Sponsor a Star
on our Wishing
Wall for \$6!

We are covering a wall in our new office with 1000+ mirrored stars to represent wishes granted and those that will be granted in the future.

If you would like to sponsor a star, please send us a donation of \$6 and we will send you an image that points out which sparkling star you've sponsored.

This wall will be seen by all visitors to our office. Each small sparkle will represent a unique wish granted to a Maine wish child.

If all 1000 stars get sponsored, a total of \$6,000 will be raised and another new wish can be granted!

ETHAN DIGS DINOS - LITERALLY!

Ethan's Wish to go on a dinosaur dig was much more than visits to the sandbox that an average 9-year-old experiences. This adventure propelled Ethan back in time where he was able to, not only touch, but also truly discover bones from dinosaurs that roamed the earth millions of years ago. Working with local favorite "Dino Jim" as his superb guide to all boney things under the South Dakota soil, Ethan and his sisters found many fossils ranging from small teeth to a Edmontosaurus thigh bone nearly as tall as Ethan!

"The experiences we had during this trip were incredible," said Ethan's father Trevor. "It was not a trip that I could have provided my family on my own. The people involved with making Ethan's trip special was something money can never buy."

Since he was a young child, Ethan has always been fascinated with dinosaurs. After he was diagnosed with cancer, he clung to everything related to dinosaurs as a way of occupying his time and thoughts. The time he spent studying and learning about these gigantic creatures was therapeutic during challenging times. It came as no surprise to his family and friends that his Wish choice would involve dinosaurs.

Ethan and his family eagerly dirtied their hands and tools with soil from two digging sites. The first (a macro site) was once a



Ethan, 9, (center) digs for dinosaur bones with his sisters, father and "Dino Jim" in S. Dakota.

river that held the remains of a herd of Edmontosaures who got caught in a flash flood. The digging took place on the side of a hill surrounded by a 40-foot drop. The second site (a micro site) contained fossils from Triceratops, duck-bills, Denverasaurus, raptors, crocodiles, and fish. They also found fossilized crocodile skin, turtle shells and part of a Tyrannosaurus Rex tooth.

View full wish story on maine.wish.org.

Thank you: Wish Granters Ginny and John Fletcher, Make-A-Wish Foundation of South Dakota, Northeast Limousine, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Jim & Leah Jester, The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, Marilyn Shelton, Evan's Plunge, Crazy Horse.

Granting 1000 Wishes

Over the past 19 years that the Maine chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation has been operating, we have granted wishes to over 50 Maine kids per year, on average. **This year, we are celebrating granting 1000 wishes to Maine kids!** In celebration of this milestone and to help continue delivering joy to deserving kids, please consider making donation at www.maine.wish.org or mail a check to 477 Congress St., Suite M1, Portland, ME 04101.

A MONSTER OF A WISH

Colin, 18, of Sanford gives his Dad a high-five after throwing an honorary first pitch at a Sea Dogs game before he went on his wish: to watch a Red Sox game from Green Monster seats at Fenway.

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His first surgery took place when he was 18 months old and several others have occurred since. Colin L'Heureux, 18, of Sanford has had cancerous tumors in his brain, his brain stem and, most recently, his wrist and forearm.

Through it all, Colin has kept a positive attitude and has enjoyed the recent opportunity to meet with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Maine to ask for his greatest wish to be granted: watch a Red Sox game from the famous Green Monster seats at Fenway.

We are very grateful for this. Extremely grateful. Our world and social calendar revolves around the hospital. This has given him something to look forward to. Sports have been his saving grace.

-Colin's Mom, Karla

"He's a huge baseball fan," said his mom, Karla. "He loves to read the sports page in the newspaper and keep stats the way his grandfather taught him when he was younger. Through all of his treatments, sports have been his saving grace."

Colin has had 30 treatments of radiation and four courses of chemotherapy, including one

starting this Wednesday. Each time he has his treatments at Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, he always hopes that his room will be one of the rooms that overlooks Hadlock Field, where the Sea Dogs play.

To reveal that his wish would be granted, Wish Granters Kevin and Barbara planned a special event for Colin and his family.

Thanks to the generosity of the Sea Dogs, Colin not only threw a ceremonial first pitch of the night, but he also received a surprise message from Slugger that revealed his wish would be granted! As Slugger pointed to specific fans on the field, they held up signs one-by-one that read "Colin... Your Wish... Will be Granted... Red Sox vs. Orioles... Green Monster at Fenway!!"

Colin was overjoyed and virtually speechless after the reveal.

"Our world and social calendar revolves around the hospital. Colin has never complained, but this has given him something to look forward to."

The exciting Sox game included a tour of the dugout, player meet and greets, Green Monster seats and even a brief spot on TV!

Thank You: Wish Granters Kevin and Barbara McDonald, Boston Red Sox, Portland Sea Dogs, Applebee's of Sanford, Reny's, Moonlighting Limousine, Make-A-Wish of Mass. and R.I., GameOn, Alex Gleeson, Linda Jackson-Phillips, Deb Donelson, and Kelley Cimino.

Our new fiscal year brings 60+ children waiting for wishes. Help grant these wishes by donating today! maine.wish.org

The Office Has Moved!

As many of you are aware, we were presented with a great opportunity to secure low-cost office space for our organization in the Time and Temperature building on Congress Street in Portland, Maine.

We have vacated our previous Camden location and have now moved all wish-related items to our new space. The savings from this move allows us to dedicate more funds to granting wishes, which is top priority in our books.

With the move, we said a heartfelt goodbye to Wish Manager, Melinda Ferrazza who, after three years at Make-A-Wish, has decided to become a stay-at-home mom. We wish her and her family all the best!

We welcome to our team new staff members Deb Donelson and Rebecca Leaming. Both working part time, Deb is assuming responsibilities of Wish Coordinator, providing comprehensive administrative support to our wish granting program statewide and managing all aspects of children's wishes who visit Maine from other states.

Rebecca is our Office Manager, responsible for Finance and Operations, and management of the office and database. She provides overall support to staff and assists with internal events. The next time you call, you will most likely hear Rebecca's friendly greeting on the other end of the line.

Please help us to warmly welcome these new staff members to our Make-A-Wish family.



Memphis & His Dragon

Memphis, 4, of Wales didn't want an average play set. Instead, he had visions of a beastly dragon to climb upon. Working together with Kids' Crooked House, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Maine was able to make Memphis roar with wish satisfaction.

"You can see how happy he is all over his face," said Janice, Memphis's grandmother. "He deserves this so much. Thank you."

When Program Director Kate Vickery did a site visit to ask Memphis where he wanted his play set, he took one small step off his back porch, waved his tiny hands wide, engulfing his entire field of view and said "riiiight here!"

And with that, construction began on the play set that now stands proud in Memphis's back yard, waiting for its tiny knight to slide down its green tail.

Thank You: Wish Granters Miranda Sepulveda and Terri Smith, Wish Maker New Page Mill, Kids' Crooked House, Northeast Limousine Services, Dina Muir, and Shelly Flanders.



Memphis, 4, of Wales is the knight of his very own dragon castle play set.

Help us pay for this newsletter. Make a donation at maine.wish.org

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EXPLORING ALASKA

Braelyn, 9, of Durham and wished to visit Alaska and while there, caught this HUGE sockeye salmon.

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After six months of cancer treatments and having a kidney removed, 9-year-old Braelyn and her family deserved a vacation.

Braelyn loves to fish and had seen pictures of her mom fishing in Alaska before Braelyn was born. When her wish granters asked what she wanted as her wish, Braelyn decided she wanted to try her own luck at fishing in Alaska.

To Anchorage they went: Braelyn, her parents and her brothers Ben and Brian. When they arrived, their hotel room was full of Alaska souvenirs for Braelyn. Other lodging included a rustic cabin complete with horns for door handles and coat racks. According to Braelyn's Mom, Michelle, the kids loved it.

"We loved it all," said Michelle. "From the sled dog tours, the zoo, the Alaska Wildlife Conservation lands... the kids wanted to stay even longer!"

This family knows the importance of spending time together and for many of Braelyn's chemotherapy appointments, she had her brothers next to her to help her through.

"She was very brave," said Michelle. "And we were all excited to see this trip getting closer and closer on our calendar. The whole experience has helped Braelyn to come out of her shell as she tells people about her trip. Make-A-Wish does so much more beyond what you can imagine."

Thank You: Wish Granters Hannah Ames and Stephanie Duggan, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Washington & Alaska, Portland Limousine, Salmon Creek Cabins, Alaska Rivers Company, Ididaride Sled Dog Tours, and Alaska Zoo.

IN MEMORY

We are saddened by the loss of the following wish children since the start of this fiscal year.

NAME	AGE	HOMETOWN
Seth	15	Porter
Trevor	10	Wilton
Landen	5	Limestone
Madeline	14	Portland
Thomas	10	Ft. Fairfield

Every dollar helps.
please donate.

Send donations to Make-A-Wish Foundation of Maine, 477 Congress St., Suite M1, Portland, ME 04101 or visit www.maine.wish.org to make a quick donation in less than five minutes!

Volunteer Wish Granter Runs for her 11 Wish Kids



Megan, 5, of Winslow is held by wish granter Cathy Langlais who ran her first-ever half-marathon in honor of Megan and the other wish children she has met. The PFBF CPAs event raised a total of \$7,733 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Maine.

Even before 6-year-old Megan Joyce of Winslow was diagnosed with cancer, she qualified for the

Make-A-Wish Foundation® because of the many other life-threatening medical conditions she was already fighting.

Her Wish Granter, Cathy Langlais was so inspired by Megan's continuous battle and the 10 additional wish children she has worked with, that she decided to run in her first half-marathon: the PFBF CPAs Half-Marathon, raising money for Megan's wish to go to Walt Disney World® this fall.

During the race, Langlais strapped a photo collage of the 11 wish children she has worked with on her arm to look at for inspiration during the run. **At mile 6.5 of (13.1 miles), Cathy broke her foot.** But, the determination to see Megan at the other side of the finish line kept her going.

"I ran to the end and hugged Megan's mom; we were both crying and excited at the same time," said Langlais. "Then Miss Megan handed me my medal. I was totally proud that I managed to do this for such a great family. I can't really describe the feeling other than it was incredible! It was four months of hard training, but when I heard it was to benefit Make-A-Wish, I knew I had to try."

DID YOU KNOW? ALL MONEY RAISED IN MAINE STAYS IN MAINE FOR LOCAL CHILDREN.

Get Shopping Rewards; Help Grant Wishes



Macy's 2011 *Thanks For Sharing* program will again benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation® and other charitable causes.

Macy's Thanks

For Sharing program has raised more than \$80 million for national and local charitable causes in just eight years. With the public's participation in *Thanks For Sharing*, Macy's can increase that number and provide more support to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and other important causes in our communities.

For each *Thanks For Sharing* enrollment fee of \$25 charged to a Macy's Card, Macy's will donate \$10, up to a total of \$15 million, to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and other charities. In return, Macy's cardholders will accumulate rewards equal to 10 percent of most of their Macy's Card purchases, from their enrollment date until December 31, 2011. Beginning in February 2012, accumulated rewards will be mailed to participants in the form of a *Thanks For Sharing Card* that can be used at any Macy's store or online at macys.com (certain restrictions apply).

To learn more, call 1-888-933-6229, visit macys.com/thanks or ask a sales associate at any Macy's store.

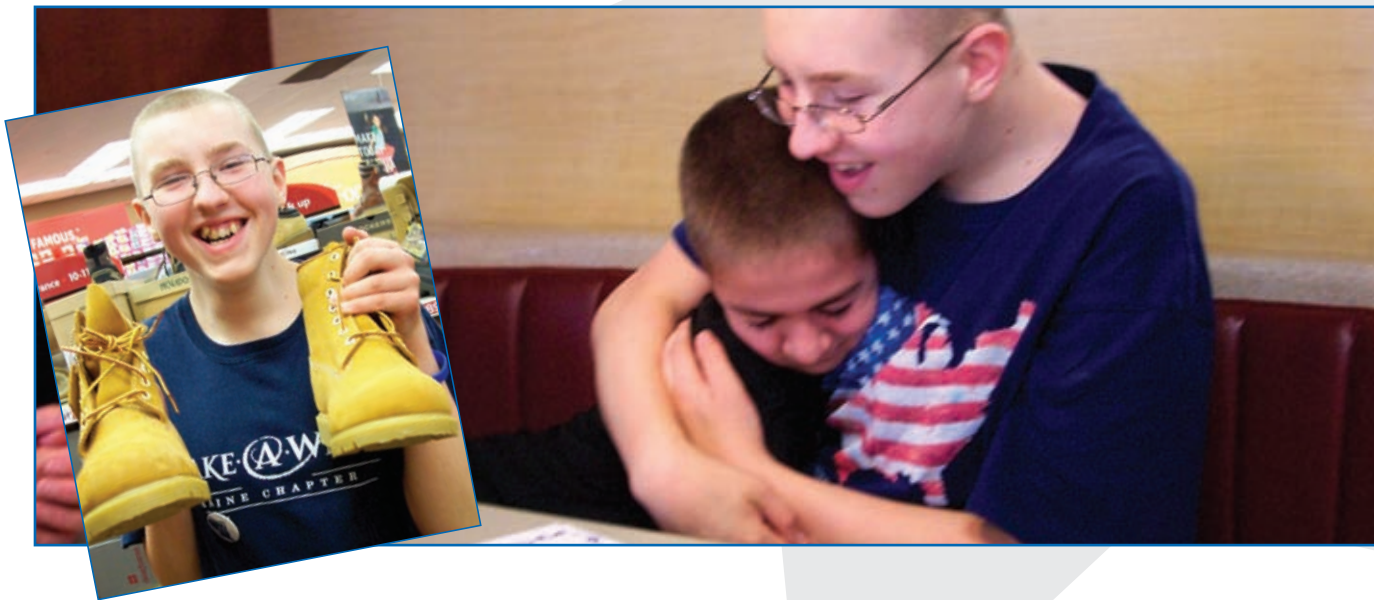
A NEW HEART FILLS CARTS

Bryton, 17, of Readfield gives his brother a big hug when he learned his wish for a shopping spree would come true. The boots he found during the spree were the ones he's wanted "forever!"

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"Besides getting my new heart, this is the best day of my life!" exclaimed Bryton, 17, while he was escorted from store to store in a limo during his shopping spree wish.

Bryton wasn't the only person who was thrilled with the experience. His mom, Terri, was moved to tears throughout the day, stating that she could not believe how wonderful everyone was.

"After Bryton has had to go through so much, I'm happy to see him being able to enjoy himself and buy so many wonderful and useful things. I can not thank you enough for this incredible wish," said Terri.

Bryton had special greetings at all the stores including welcome signs, cakes, cookies and drinks, personal shoppers, gift bags for siblings, balloons, additional gift cards and more.

It's a good thing the limousine had a large trunk because Bryton filled it up with clothes, boots, electronics, back to school needs, toys, and more.

It took over three years for Bryton to receive his

heart transplant and get beyond the rejection period due to many complications. Bryton's family and doctors decided that he should wait until his new heart was in good working order before going on his wish, which meant that Bryton had a long time to dream about the day it would actually happen.

"I met Bryton and his mom at Boston Children's hospital in a very sterile room filled with machines that were keeping Bryton alive," said Jim Christie, Bryton's Wish Granter and Development Director for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Maine. "He

was very pale, weak and quiet and his mom was more than a bit frightened as they waited on a heart to come available. Three years later, this is a very different Bryton. He was determined

to come out on top and he has. With some limitations, Bryton is doing things a kid his age should be doing and enjoying every minute of it."

-Wish Child Bryton

Besides getting my new heart, this is the best day of my life!

Thank You: Wish Makers Jock and Day Cowperthwaite, Wish Granters Jim and Heather Christie, Northeast Limousine Service, WalMart, Best Buy, Game Stop, Old Navy, Red Robin, Target, Eagles Club.

EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS OF ALL SIZES



2011 Tee it Up for Wishes Ladies Golf Tourney: Success!

The ladies have done it again! The second annual Tee It Up for Wishes golf tourney was successful at raising more than enough money to grant a wish (\$8,500)! This is nearly a \$2,000 increase over last year.

4th Annual Southern Maine Garden Tractor Club Pull

Wish kids, siblings and friends gathered in Saco to try their luck at pulling. Not only did the attending wish kids walk away with trophies proving their success, but future wish kids will benefit from the \$7,068 raised.



2nd NE Lifeguard Competition at OOB raises \$1,200

Beach rescue squads from across New England get together for some friendly competition consisting of many swimming events, running events, paddling events, mock rescues, and more. All for a great cause!



Upcoming Wishes...

Additional upcoming wishes include going to Scotland, a shopping spree at the Mall of America, a Disney Cruise, attending a movie premiere, being a zookeeper at San Diego Zoo, visiting Turkey, visiting Greece, relaxing at Atlantis Resort and more! To make a donation for any of these wishes, call us at 207-221-2306.



"I wish to go to Fiji!" - Sarah, 17, of Portland



"I wish to go to Walt Disney World!" - Chase, 5, of Buxton



"I wish to have a shopping spree at the Mall of America!" - Amy, 12, of Machias



Company Name
123 Everywhere Avenue
City, ST 00000

SWINGING SUMMER DAYS

Makayla, 4, of Owls Head wished for an accessible swing set that she could enjoy with her family. This wish was sponsored by Glenmede.

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Wish granters and Coast guard volunteers showed up at Makayla's house in the morning to set up her new, fully accessible swing set. There are three different swings for Makayla to enjoy in her backyard.

The volunteers assembled the sets, spread wood chips and installed all the swings.

"Everything was great" said volunteer wish granter Shasta Minery. "The Coast Guard crew was absolutely amazing and had no problem with the set! It was a very rewarding and emotional experience. Overall, a great day for everyone involved!"

Thank you to Wish Granters Shasta and Gary Minery, Harbor Builders, Coast Guard soldiers from Southwest Harbor, Rockland EBS, and Jake Barbour Inc.

